



# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

5 In re Patent Application :  
 of Thomas Mason, et al. :  
 Serial No. 09/716,156 :

Examiner: Stephen D. D'Adamo

10 For: Improved Bleacher Chair and :  
 Method of Vending Same :

Art Unit: 3636

**Priority Date: 11/20/2000 : BRIEF ON APPEAL**

15 MAIL STOP: Appeal Brief - Patents  
 The Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
 P. O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## STATUS OF CLAIMS

20 Claims 1 and 3-16 are the subject of this appeal. No other claims are pending.  
 Claim 2 has been withdrawn.

## STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

25 An Amendment After Final Rejection filed on 17 May 2004 concomitantly with  
 the Notice of Appeal was not entered (see Advisory Action mailed on June 15, 2004).

## SUMMARY OF INVENTION

30 The first embodiment of a method for a rental of a bleacher chair for events  
 having bleacher seating to a customer attending said event, the bleacher seating having a  
 width, is best depicted in Figures 1, 2, and 4. Figure 4 shows a flow chart describing the  
 steps of the first embodiment of the present claimed method invention as recited in  
 35 dependent claim 11.

A key novel feature of the method is step 406 of Fig. 4 which states "BAR CODE  
 LABELS FOR INVENTORY" wherein a distinctly different bar code equivalent to a

unique serial number is assigned to each chair in a like set of chairs in the inventory.

This key step is disclosed in detail beginning at line 23 at the bottom of page 16 et seq.

of the instant specification where it is stated, "The members of the group are each labeled

or tagged with unique number and representative bar code adapted for bar code

5 scanning".

The embodiment of the bleacher chair in combination with a bleacher structure

recited in independent claim 1 is depicted in Figures 1 and 2. A key distinguishing

feature is that the preamble of claim 1 recites a combination of a bleacher structure

having tiers with seating planks of a specified width with an engageable portable bleacher

10 chair with only a bottom being in contact with the bleacher structure by being juxtaposed

on top of the bleacher structure wherein a horizontal bar connecting shortened legs at the

front of the portable bleacher chair provides a suspended foot rest behind a bleacher

seating plank in front of the bleacher seating plank on which the bleacher chair rests.

A second embodiment of the present method invention recited in independent

15 claim 13 is also depicted in Figures 1, 2 and 4 and the operation of the method is also

exemplified in the flow chart of Figure 4. Claim 13 limits the method to the specific

bleacher structure and chair combination with the foot rest as recited in claim 1.

## ISSUES

**Issue 1-** Whether claims 1 and 12 are patentable under 35 USC §102 (b) over

20 Gleckler et al.?

**Issue 2-** Whether claims 3-10, and 16 are patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over

Gleckler et al in view of Lippert?

**Issue 3** - Whether claims 11 and 13-15 are patentable under 35 USC §103 (a) over Gleckler et al in view of the internet article Sudbury Taylor Rental?

## **GROUPING OF CLAIMS**

For each ground of rejection which appellant contests and challenges here which applies to more than one claim, such additional claims, to the extent separately identified and argued below, do not stand or fall together.

## **THE ARGUMENT**

Prior to discussing each art rejection appearing below as Issues 1 through 3, appellant wishes to first recite specifically from the record for the honorable Board's attention the following specific statements made in the Office Actions below with respect to each art rejection, to wit:

### **METHOD CLAIMS 11 AND 13-15**

Regarding claim 11, Gleckler discloses the structure, as rejected above for claims 1 and 12, however, Gleckler does not teach of a method for renting the chairs. Sudbury Taylor Rental teaches of renting chairs. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to rent the chairs [of] Gleckler, as taught by Sudbury Taylor Rental.

In regards to claims 13-15, the method disclosed for renting is old and well known. The office takes official notice that the method of using a computer for storing data, a scannable bar code, a bar code reader, a credit card transaction, and an electronic signature are old and well known in the art and would have been obvious to use with the method of renting Gleckler's adjustable chairs.

As argued below, appellant believes the Examiner's assertion of the method of vending bleacher chairs recited in claims 13-15 as obvious to be erroneous since neither Gleckler et al nor Sudbury Taylor Rental, the references applied to reject claims 13-15,

discloses, teaches, or suggests the use of a unique identification means for uniquely identifying each bleacher chair of a like set of bleacher chairs within the context of the claims 13-15 discussed herein. To properly reject claims 13-15, it is necessary that a recitation within either the Gleckler reference or the Sudbury Taylor Rental reference supporting the Examiner's implied assertion that each element of the method claim, especially the assignment of a unique bar code to each member of a like set of bleacher chairs, must be suggested by the combination of these references.

The point appellant attempts to communicate here is that a different bar code is assigned to each of the chairs. For example, if you imagine going into a grocery store, when you scan each of a box of cereal of a same brand, you expect the bar code to be the same. Here the appellant assigns a different bar code to each of a box of cereal of a same brand. This is what distinguishes these claims over the prior art and this is the core of the appellant's method invention.

Nowhere in the recited official notice by the Examiner has there been declared or suggested or taught that a unique and different identification number or bar code has been assigned to each member of a like set of bleacher chairs for the purpose of renting these bleacher chairs.

### STRUCTURE CLAIMS 1 AND 12

The Office Action in rejecting claims 1 and 12 as anticipated under 35 USC

§102(b) further states:

Gleckler discloses in Figures 1 and 7 an adjustable chair, including all the features of the claimed invention. The chair has an elongated rod 12, 39 attached to a "U"-shaped seat frame II, 3 7 and a "U"-shaped back

5 frame 15, 42. The seating surface has two lateral arms 20, 43 joined to the back frame by fasteners 21. The forward and rear leg members join the armrest in the proper locations with fasteners 31, 37 and 19, 45. Moreover, the telescoping features of Gleckler accommodate the ratio limitations with the forward member and rear member, as claimed in both claim 1 and claim 12.

As argued below, appellant believes the Examiner's assertion of anticipation of each element of claims 1 and 12 by Gleckler to be erroneous. The assertion is erroneous because (a) Gleckler fails to affirmatively disclose the combination of a chair combined with a bleacher seat tier wherein the chair rests solely on a seat plank via its bottom and is held there by the weight of a person seated in the chair. And, (b) the assertion defies logic because the adjustable legs feature pointed out in the final rejection does not support the conclusion that Gleckler et al with this adjustment can fit a bleacher plank and function in the same way as applicant's chair because Gleckler provides three pre-set adjustments to the length of the legs. There is no suggestion or teaching in Gleckler that one of these lengths in relationship to the member 30 adapts Gleckler to bleachers in the same way as taught by applicant's disclosure.

In addition, as argued below, appellant believes the Examiner's assertion of anticipation of the foot rest element of claims 1 and 12 by Gleckler to be erroneous because (a) both Gleckler and the Examiner fail to affirmatively disclose how the member 30 shown in Fig. 1 thereof while resting on the ground as shown can be used as a foot rest as recited for the suspended horizontal bar recited in claims 1 and 12. The second version of the Gleckler chair shown in Fig. 7 thereof has preset stops 53, 54, and 54 for the front and horizontal bar 48 (also shown with dotted lines in Sheet 2 of 2) to provide an extension function to extend and rest the front member 48 *on the ground*.

#### STRUCTURE CLAIMS 3-10, AND 16

As argued below, the obviousness rejection of claims 3-10, and 16 is a product of hindsight reconstruction using appellant's discovery that shortened reconstructed front and rear legs with a conjoining horizontal bar for the front legs and a redesigned seat wide enough to freely rest on a bleacher plank to combine Gleckler's chair adapted for camping and support by the ground with Lippert's stadium seat. Gleckler modified by Lippert when adapted for use as a stadium seat is physically clamped to a bleacher plank without any suggestion of a suspended foot rest. In col. 1, line 59, Lippert suggests that the stadium chair has multiple modes including use as a beach or lounge chair and in col. 2, lines 44-47 explicitly teaches away from appellant's invention by stating that the Lippert legs, like the Gleckler legs, when extended are to support the chair on a surface such as a beach with no suggestion of *suspension* for their use as a hanging foot rest.

Below the Examiner erroneously reads more than exists in Gleckler combined with Lippert stating, in pertinent part:

Claims 3-10 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gleckler et al (4,772,068) in view of Lippert (3,994,529). Gleckler discloses an adjustable chair including most of the mechanical features in the present invention.... In regards to claims 3 and 7-10, Lippert discloses a stadium seat with "tubular members of aluminum" (col.2, line 24). ...Lippert further teaches in col. 1, lines 58-64, "the chair assembly has utility not only as a stadium chair but also as a beach or lounge chair; further, the chair assembly is characterized by simplicity, portability, and collapsibility, light weight construction, ease of set up and collapse in each of its utility modes; adaptation to different size stadium seats or benches, and high strength." It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the different materials for fabrics and tubular frames, as taught by Lippert, for modifying Gleckler's adjustable chair. Furthermore, from Lippert's teachings, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Gleckler's chair from other utilities, keeping the same structure.

Yet there is no support, suggestion, or intimation in the references cited for the recitation in these claims of the suspended horizontal element "wherein the horizontal bar provides a suspended foot rest behind a bleacher seating plank in front of the bleacher seating plank on which the bleacher chair rests."

**Issue 1- Whether claims 1 and 12 are patentable under 35 USC §102 (b) over Gleckler et al.?**

Anticipation is a question of a set of facts showing each claim element supported by a reference cited. Anticipation fails if the reference is shown to be devoid of an essential element recited in the claim. *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ 2d 1143, 1447 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

Claim 1 is an independent combination claim reciting a combination of a bleacher structure having tiers of bleacher seating planks with a bleacher chair having specified structural modifications including a seat portion being the only contact point with the bleacher structure, the contact being effectuated solely by the gravitational and frictional resting of the seat on a bleacher seating plank of one of the tiers.

Claim 12 is an independent claim to the bleacher chair recited in claim 1 written in Jepson format and claiming an improvement of a portable lawn chair wherein the leg support and horizontal bar structure is substantially shortened avoiding contact with the bleacher structure wherein the seat portion frame juxtaposed upon a bleacher seat converts the bottom horizontal bar into a foot rest.

A key structural element recited in Claims 1 and 12 is a horizontal bar (Appendix, p.2, line 4; p. 9, line 12-14) that "provides a suspended foot rest behind a bleacher seating plank in front of the bleacher seating plank on which the bleacher chair rests" or "the bleacher seat converts the bottom horizontal bar of said forward member into a foot rest." At issue is whether there is a factual showing in Gleckler et al. to support the finding of the Examiner that this reference anticipates the appellant's suspended foot rest behind a bleacher seating plank as recited in claims 1 and 12.



What does Gleckler et al. say about a "foot rest"? What does this reference suggest about a "bleacher"? Gleckler et al. declares explicitly that it is (a) an adjustable fishing and camping chair with a *three-position adjustable rear leg and horizontal member combination 23 resting on a slope 29* to substantially level the seat 11 of the chair 10 on the slope 29 as shown in Fig. 1, or (b) a similar low profile (i.e. low to the ground) chair with a *three-position adjustable front leg and horizontal member combination 48 resting on a slope* to substantially level the seat 37 of the chair 36. Contrary to the factual inference from Gleckler et al. used by the Examiner to factually support anticipation of a suspended horizontal bar acting as a suspended foot rest, this reference explicitly declares that the leg and horizontal members are on the ground with nothing more suggested. Thus, referring to col.1, lines 65-68 et seq. Glecker et al. states:

In use, chair 36 is unfolded, until the leg members 42a and 48 are fully extended, the bottom portions touching the ground surface.

Hence, Gleckler et al. neither anticipates nor suggests the suspended foot rest as recited in claims 1 and 12. No factual basis exists to support the rejection of claims 1 and 12. This rejection is a clear error. Claims 1 and 12 are patentable under 35 USC §102 (b) over Gleckler et al.

**Issue 2 - Whether claims 3-10, and 16 are patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over Gleckler et al. in view of Lippert?**

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established only if the contents of  
 5 Gleckler et al. and Lippert when read together compel a conclusion that claims 3-10, and  
 16 are unpatentable under a preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving  
 each term in the claims their broadest reasonable construction consistent with the  
 specification. Evidence submitted which establishes a contrary conclusion of  
 patentability, if compelling and preponderant, compels a contrary conclusion of  
 10 patentability. *See, In re Dillon, 919 F. 2d 688, 16 USPQ 2d, 1908 (Fed. Cir. 1992).*

Claims 3 - 10 are each dependent on Claim 1 and thus include all of the  
 limitations and elements of Claim 1. Claim 16 is an independent claim that recites a  
 combination of a bleacher structure and a collapsible portable disengageable bleacher  
 chair wherein the seat is juxtaposed in contact with a seating plank. Claim 16 is written in  
 15 Jepson format and focuses on and recites the inventive improvement to be "an elevated  
 horizontal bar...that provides a suspended foot rest...". Thus, as evinced by the  
 foregoing argument as to Issue 1, either Lippert or Geckler et al. when combined with  
 Lippert must show, suggest, or teach this featured element of these claims or the prima  
 facie case of obviousness based on these references should fall.

20 The Office Actions below admit that Gleckler et al. does not include all of the  
 mechanical features recited in Claims 3-10 and 16 adding, "Gleckler discloses an  
 adjustable chair including most of the mechanical features in the present invention.  
 However, Gleckler fails to include details in the construction elements and fabrics used  
 on the chair...Furthermore, from Lippert's teachings, it would have been obvious to one

having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Glecker's chair for other utilities, keeping the same structure."

So using Lippert's dubious suggestion to suspend (suspend being questionably inferred from "other utilities"), we take the Gleckler chair and place it on a bleacher plank as claimed by the appellant. Since Gleckler discloses a chair with either front or rear collapsible legs but not both, how is it suggested in Lippert combined with Gleckler to combine the two Gleckler chairs without using appellant's invention as a template. Unless you retract both front and rear legs in the two separate structures disclosed by Gleckler it may not fit or suspend from a plank as taught only by the appellant.

There is still the important detail in Gleckler that either the front or the rear legs are retractable only at two or three pre-set positions with no suggestion as to what the shortest or the longest length is. So, without using the parameters suggested by appellant as disclosed in the specification, is there any reasonable certainty that either of the Gleckler chairs modified to the shortest length will actually fit over and suspend from a bleacher plank? Appellant's specification is needed with the detailed ratio of R to F being .667 as specified in claim 16. Without this information, discovered by the appellant, the factual basis for declaring claims 3-10 and 16 obvious and unpatentable is faulty. It is merely a guess or conjecture that could only be made using hindsight reconstruction. Moreover, neither Lippert nor Gleckler et al. in view of Lippert has been shown to suggest suspending a horizontal bar for use as a foot rest unless one first takes the suggestion from appellant and in hindsight reconstructs the foot rest utility.

**Issue 3 - Whether claims 11 and 13-15 are patentable under 35 USC §103 (a) over Gleckler et al in view of the internet article Sudbury Taylor Rental?**

5           It is a plain and reversible error for an Examiner in support of a finding in an Office Action to use conclusory statements to support his subjective belief that it was obvious that a person skilled in the art would have been motivated to combine prior art without any specific hint or suggestion in a particular reference to support the combination of the prior art. The factual question of motivation for combining  
10 references must be thorough and searching. *See, McGinley v. Franklin Sports, Inc.* 262 F. 3d 1339, 1351-52, 60 USPQ2d 1001, 1008 (Fed. Cir. 2001); *In re Lee*, 277 F. 3d 1338, 61 USPQ 2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

          Claims 11 and 13 - 15 are claims to a method for vending bleacher chairs. Claim 11 is an independent claim reciting steps for vending a bleacher chair for a fee and with a  
15 security therefor and upon returning the same chair rented returning the security. Claims 13 -15 substantially and materially narrow the scope of claim 11 by claiming a vending method wherein the element of a "unique identification means for uniquely identifying each said bleacher chair..." is recited. This recited element insures that the chair rented is the chair returned and not the chair of another renter.

20           Claim 13 is a dependent claim linking a method for vending bleacher chairs, each with a unique identification means, to the bleacher chair combined with tiers of bleachers as recited in claim 1.

          The final rejection of the method claims stated that:

25           Claims 11 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gleckler et al (4,772,068) in view of Sudbury Taylor Rental. Regarding claim 11, Gleckler discloses the structure, as rejected above for claims 1 and 12,

however, Gleckler does not teach of a method for renting the chairs. Sudbury Taylor Rental teaches of renting chairs. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to rent the chairs Gleckler, as taught by Sudbury Taylor Rental.

In regards to claims 13-15, the method disclosed for renting is old and well known. The office takes official notice that the method of using a computer for storing data, a scannable bar code, a bar code reader, a credit card transaction, and an electronic signature are old and well known in the art and would have been obvious to use with the method of renting Gleckler's adjustable chairs.

What the Examiner has failed to meet with the cited references either singly or in combination or to understand is that the method and business plan on which the method is based requires a unique bar coding means for each chair of a set of chairs that otherwise look essentially the same. This is clearly recited in the appellant's specification on pps.

16-17, lines 23 to line 1. Claims 13, 14, and 15 all reciting the elemental limitation "each said bleacher chair comprising a unique identification means for uniquely identifying each said bleacher chair...". Thus, as evinced by the foregoing, the Office Actions and record below fail to suggest, intimate, or establish a vending method for bleacher chairs or the like based on providing a unique bar code or identification number to a matching set. The

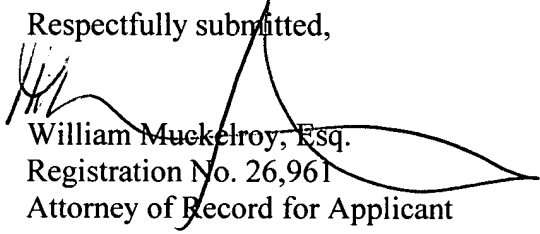
Examiner's view is that judicial notice may be taken of the fact that most any item has a bar code attached. Therefore, the appellant's discovery of a utility by applying a *different bar code* to each member of a like set of bleacher chairs is *ipso facto* obvious. On the other hand, the Examiner has not cited a reference or presented a cognizable argument that suggests using different bar codes to insure that the chair rented is the chair returned. The reference Sudbury Taylor Rental merely establishes that like sets of chairs are rented. These chairs as with most inventories are marked alike with the same bar code if marked at all.

## CONCLUSION

For the extensive factual reasons advanced above and based on the legal precedents cited and now including the Administrative Procedures Act, 5 USCA §551 et seq. in view of the citation of Official Notice by the Examiner to sustain a *prima facie* case of nonpatentability under 35 USC §103, Appellant forcefully contends that each claim is patentable. Therefore, reversal of all rejections is courteously and respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, a second petition for another extension of time of two months to September 16, 2004 under 37 CFR 1.136 is hereby made with the appropriate additional fee due being submitted herewith in connection with the filing of this brief.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attachments: Appendix (claims); Certificate of Mailing; Certificate of Express Mail  
Petition for Two-Month Time Extension to File Brief (with additional fee due).

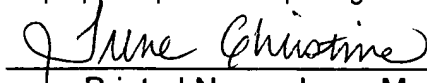
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## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Printed Name: Irene M. Christine

## APPENDIX

### Claims

- Claim 1.** In combination with a bleacher structure having tiers of bleacher seating
- 5 planks of a width W, a collapsible portable disengageable bleacher chair with a plurality of portions including a seat portion having a top and a bottom, said bottom of said seat portion being the only portion of said chair in contact with said bleacher structure, said bottom being juxtaposed on top of one of said seating planks of the bleacher structure, said bleacher chair comprising:
- 10 a chair portion comprising:
- an elongated rod;
- a seat portion comprising a seat portion frame further comprising a first peripheral frame forming two opposed sides and one unopposed side of a rectangle, and flexibly joined with said elongated rod to form the fourth side thereof;
- 15 a back portion comprising a back portion frame further comprising a second peripheral frame forming two opposed sides and one unopposed side of a rectangle, and flexibly joined with said elongated rod to form the fourth side thereof; and,
- a seating surface;
- two lateral arm members, each lateral arm member having a midpoint, the two lateral arm
- 20 members being positioned outward of said chair portion, one on each side, with each rearward end of each arm member joined to the opposing sides of said back portion frame of said chair portion approximately at their midpoint;
- a forward member comprising a frame forming two opposed forward vertically oriented and forward slanted sides each having a proximal end and a distal end, each having a

length F and one unopposed side of a rectangle, with each proximal end of said opposed sides closest to said unopposed side joined to one of the lateral arm members in the proximity of the forward end thereof, with each distal end of said opposed sides farthest from said unopposed side joined by a horizontal bar, and the opposed sides of said

5 forward member joined approximately at their midpoint to the opposing sides of said seat portion frame in the proximity of the unopposed side of said seat portion frame; and, a rearward member comprising a frame forming two opposed rearward vertically oriented and rearward slanted sides each having a length R

and one unopposed side of a rectangle, with each distal end of said opposed sides farthest

10 from said unopposed side joined to one of the lateral arm members in the proximity of midpoint of said lateral arm members, and the opposite sides of said rearward member joined at a point proximate to the unopposed side of said rearward member to the opposing sides of said seat portion frame in the proximity of the distal ends of said opposed sides of said seat portion frame

15 farthest from the unopposed side of said seat portion frame, and wherein, a distance D between the juncture of said forward member with said seat portion frame and the juncture of said rearward member with said seat portion frame is greater than the width W of a bleacher seat plank, said seat portion frame resting upon the bleacher seat plank and said bleacher chair supported solely by said bleacher seat plank,

20 and wherein R is substantially less than F, said forward member comprising the frame forming two opposed forward vertically oriented and forward slanted sides each having the length F, the length F representing the length of said forward member, said rearward member comprising the frame forming two opposed rearward vertically oriented and



rearward slanted sides each having a length R, the length R representing the length of said rearward member, and wherein the horizontal bar provides a suspended foot rest behind a bleacher seating plank in front of the bleacher seating plank on which the bleacher chair rests.

5

**Claim 3.** The bleacher seat of claim 1 wherein the rearward member is constructed of separate pieces in which at least the opposing sides are tubular aluminum.

**Claim 4.** The bleacher seat of claim 1 in which the seat surface comprises a tightly  
10 interwoven mesh of woven plastic straps, such that, straps connect the opposed sides of said seat portion frame, the opposed sides of said back portion frame, and the unopposed side of said seat portion frame to the unopposed side of side back portion frame across said elongated rod.

**Claim 5.** The bleacher seat of claim 1 in which the seat surface comprises a tightly  
15 interwoven mesh of fabric straps, such that, straps connect the opposed sides of said seat portion frame, the opposed sides of said back portion frame, and the unopposed side of said seat portion frame to the unopposed side of side back portion frame across said elongated rod.

20

**Claim 6.** The bleacher seat of claim 1 in which the seat surface comprises a tightly interwoven mesh of fabric panels, such that, at least one panel connects the opposed sides of said seat portion frame, at least one panel connects the opposed sides of said back

portion frame, and at least one panel connects the unopposed side of said seat portion frame to the unopposed side of side back portion frame across said elongated rod.

**Claim 7.** The bleacher seat of claim 1 wherein the seat portion frame is constructed  
5 of an integral piece of tubular aluminum.

**Claim 8.** The bleacher seat of claim 1 wherein the back portion frame is constructed of an integral piece of tubular aluminum.

10 **Claim 9.** The bleacher seat of claim 1 wherein the forward member is constructed of an integral piece of tubular aluminum.

**Claim 10.** The bleacher seat of claim 1 wherein the elongated rod is constructed of metal.

15

**Claim 11.** A method for a rental of a bleacher chair for events having bleacher seating to a customer attending said event, the bleacher seating having a width, which method comprises:

having a supply of bleacher chairs at a convenient location proximate to said event, each

20 said bleacher chair comprising:

a chair portion comprising:

an elongated rod;

a seat portion comprising a peripheral frame forming two opposed sides and one unopposed side of a rectangle, and flexibly joined with said elongated rod to form the fourth side thereof;

a back portion comprising a peripheral frame forming two opposed sides and one unopposed side of a rectangle, and flexibly joined with said elongated rod to form the fourth side thereof; and,

a seating surface;

two lateral arm members positioned outward of said chair portion, one on each side, with each rearward end of each arm member joined to the opposing sides of said back portion frame of said chair portion approximately at their midpoint;

a forward member comprising an aluminum frame forming two opposed sides and one unopposed side of a rectangle, with each distal end of said opposed sides farthest from said unopposed side joined to one of the lateral arm members in the proximity of the forward end thereof, and the opposed sides of said forward member joined approximately at their midpoint to the opposed sides of said seat portion frame in the proximity of the unopposed side of said seat portion frame; and,

a rearward member comprising a frame forming two opposed sides and one unopposed side of a rectangle, with each distal end of said opposed sides farthest from said unopposed side joined to one of the lateral arm members in the proximity of the midpoint of said lateral arm members, and the opposed sides of said rearward member joined at a point proximate to the unopposed side of said rearward member to the opposed sides of said seat portion frame in the proximity of the distal ends of said opposed sides of said seat portion frame member farthest from the unopposed side of said seat portion frame,

and wherein, the distance between the juncture of said forward member with said seat portion frame and the juncture of said rearward member with said seat portion frame is greater than the width of bleacher seating, such that said seat portion frame can rest upon said bleacher seating,

5 and wherein, the portion of said rearward member extending beyond the junction of said rearward member with said seat portion frame does not contact said bleacher structure in a way which would interfere with the placement of the seat portion frame upon said bleacher seating;

providing a bleacher chair to a customer for the time period of the event upon payment of  
10 a rental fee and provision of a security; and,  
returning said security to said customer upon return of the bleacher chair.

**Claim 12.** In a collapsible, portable lawn chair, said chair comprising:

a chair portion comprising:

15 an elongated rod;

a seat portion comprising a peripheral frame forming two opposed sides and one unopposed side of a rectangle, and flexibly joined with said elongated rod to form the fourth side thereof;

a back portion comprising a peripheral frame forming two opposed sides and one  
20 unopposed side of a rectangle, and flexibly joined with said elongated rod to form the fourth side thereof; and,

a seating surface;

two lateral arm members positioned outward of said chair portion, one on each side, with each rearward end of each arm member joined to the opposing sides of said back portion frame of said chair portion approximately at their midpoint;

a forward member comprising a frame forming two opposed sides and one unopposed side of a rectangle, with each distal end of said opposed sides farthest from said unopposed side joined to one of the lateral arm members in the proximity of the forward end thereof, and the opposed sides of said forward member joined approximately at their midpoint to the opposing sides of said seat portion frame in the proximity of the unopposed side of said seat portion frame; and,

a rearward member comprising a frame forming two opposed sides and one unopposed side of a rectangle, with each distal end of said opposed sides farthest from said unopposed side joined to one of the lateral arm members in the proximity of the midpoint of said lateral arm members, and the opposite sides of said rearward member joined at a point proximate to the unopposed side of said rearward member to the opposing sides of said seat portion frame in the proximity of the distal ends of said opposed sides of said seat portion frame member farthest from the unopposed side of said seat portion frame member,

and wherein, the distance between the juncture of said forward member with said seat portion frame and the juncture of said rearward member with said seat portion frame is

greater than a width of a bleacher seat and bleacher support structure,

an improvement comprising said seat portion frame juxtaposed upon the bleacher seat, and wherein, the portion of said rearward member extending beyond the junction of said rearward member with said seat portion frame is substantially shortened and avoids

contact with the bleacher support structure and wherein said seat portion frame juxtaposed upon the bleacher seat converts the bottom horizontal bar of said forward member into a foot rest.

- 5     **Claim 13.**     A method for the rental of a portable bleacher chair as specified in claim 1, the method being used for an event having bleacher seating, the method being for rental inside said event only to a customer having a unique personal identification and attending said event, which method comprises:
- (a) providing an inventory of bleacher chairs at a location proximate to said event, each
- 10    said bleacher chair comprising a unique identification means for uniquely identifying each said bleacher chair, said identification means being laser scannable into a computer;
- (b) providing a computer means for digitally storing the unique identification means for each bleacher chair;
- (c) providing a credit card scanning means for scanning the renter's credit card and
- 15    obtaining a set of data therefrom when the renter checks out a bleacher chair, the computer means matching the data to the unique identification means for the bleacher chair rented;
- (d) the computer means further having a signature capture means for electronically capturing said renter's signature authorizing a transaction, the computer means further
- 20    having a wireless digital phone connection means for sending and receiving credit card data and a printing means for printing a receipt of said transaction;
- (e) providing a means for electronically charging and releasing a monetary deposit for said bleacher chair rental; and,

(f) releasing the deposit by scanning the unique identification means associated with said bleacher chair upon its return to inventory.

**Claim 14.** The method of claim 13 wherein the unique identification means is  
5 attached to the bleacher chair, the bar code being a unique digital number.

**Claim 15.** The method of claim 13 wherein the unique identification means is a bar code and the scanning means is a means for detecting and reading the unique digital number .

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**Claim 16.** In a combination of a bleacher structure having tiers of bleacher seating planks of a width W, a collapsible portable disengageable bleacher chair with a plurality of portions including a seat portion having a top and a bottom, said bottom of said seat portion being the only portion of said chair in contact with said bleacher structure, said  
15 bottom being juxtaposed on top of one of said seating planks of the bleacher structure, said bleacher chair comprising:

a chair portion comprising:

an elongated rod;

a seat portion comprising a seat portion frame further comprising a first peripheral frame  
20 forming two opposed sides and one unopposed side of a rectangle, and flexibly joined with said elongated rod to form the fourth side thereof;

a back portion comprising a back portion frame further comprising a second peripheral frame forming two opposed sides and one unopposed side of a rectangle, and flexibly joined with said elongated rod to form the fourth side thereof; and,  
a seating surface;

5 two lateral arm members, each lateral arm member having a midpoint, the two lateral arm members being positioned outward of said chair portion, one on each side, with each rearward end of each arm member joined to the opposing sides of said back portion frame of said chair portion approximately at their midpoint;

a forward member comprising a frame forming two opposed forward vertically oriented  
10 and forward slanted sides each having a proximal end and a distal end, each having a length F and one unopposed side of a rectangle, with each proximal end of said opposed sides closest to said unopposed side joined to one of the lateral arm members in the proximity of the forward end thereof, with each distal end of said opposed sides farthest from said unopposed side joined by a horizontal bar, and the opposed sides of said  
15 forward member joined approximately at their midpoint to the opposing sides of said seat portion frame in the proximity of the unopposed side of said seat portion frame; and,  
a rearward member comprising a frame forming two opposed rearward vertically oriented and rearward slanted sides each having a length R  
and one unopposed side of a rectangle, with each distal end of said opposed sides farthest  
20 from said unopposed side joined to one of the lateral arm members in the proximity of midpoint of said lateral arm members, and the opposite sides of said rearward member joined at a point proximate to the unopposed side of said rearward member to the opposing sides of said seat portion frame in the proximity of the distal ends of said



opposed sides of said seat portion frame farthest from the unopposed side of said seat portion frame,

and wherein, a distance D between the juncture of said forward member with said seat portion frame and the juncture of said rearward member with said seat portion frame is

5 greater than the width W of a bleacher seat plank, said seat portion frame resting upon the bleacher seat plank and said bleacher chair supported solely by said bleacher seat plank,

and wherein R is less than F, said forward member comprising the frame forming two opposed forward vertically oriented and forward slanted sides each having the length F, the length F representing the length of said forward member, said rearward member

10 comprising the frame forming two opposed rearward vertically oriented and rearward slanted sides each having a length R, the length R representing the length of each said rearward member wherein R and F bear a certain ratio relationship to each other, the ratio of R to F being approximately 0.667,

the improvement comprising an elevated horizontal bar extending between each of said

15 rearward members that provides a suspended foot rest behind a bleacher seating plank and in front of another bleacher seating plank on which the bleacher chair rests.